

A Genuine  
NARRATIVE  
OF  
*Francis Henry De la Motte,*  
Who was Executed this Day at  
TYBURN.



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A G E N U I N E  
*NARRATIVE, &c.*

**O**N Friday, July the 20th, the Recorder made the Report to His Majesty in Council of Mons. De la Motte's being convicted, and His Majesty ordered him for Execution according to his Sentence, on Friday the 27th Inst.

On his being brought to the bar, the indictment found against him for High Treason, stating a great variety of overt acts, in carrying on a treasonable correspondence with some French subjects, in-

forming them of the force, station, and destination of the several squadrons of this country, was read by the Clerk of the Arraignment.

The prisoner pleaded Not Guilty, and put himself upon the Country.

MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL opened the case, briefly stating that the prisoner was accused of a great variety of treasonable practices on the 11th of January, in the 20th year of his present Majesty, and at various other periods at that time. The prisoner had, (said Mr. Attorney) against the dignity of the Crown, and in violation of his allegiance as a subject of these realms, transmitted to the Ministry of the Court of France intelligence respecting the force and destination of our Navy and Army, whereby he had enabled the enemy to attack us where we were vulnerable, and to avoid contest in those quarters of the globe where we had a superiority of force.

Mr. Attorney concluded, with observing, that if from the evidence that would



be produced, the Jury should be able to convict him of only one of the several of which he stood accused, that alone would be sufficient to operate to his conviction; adding, that in the whole history of mankind, an instance was not to be produced of a more ingenious, able, and industrious spy, than Mr. De La Motte.

The first evidence in support of the prosecution was Ratcliff, who deposed, that in June, 1780, he was applied to by Mr. Rogers, to convey packets, to the number of three or four per month, from Dover to Bologne, for which, according to the proposition of Rogers, he was to be paid at the rate of 20l. each trip or voyage; that for the first trip he was paid 20l. and afterwards at the rate of 10. to 13.

This witness added, that Rogers, in the name of his principal, he had promised him a present of 100l. at the end of three months, on condition of his exerting his utmost endeavours to deliver the packets with all possible expedition.

Some papers were read which contained an explicit and accurate narrative of the number and weight of metal of our shipping in the several ports, mentioning the times when they would be respectively ready for sailing, with the time they were severally victualled for, and their different places of destination. These papers were dated from June to December, 1780, and among them was a letter to a Mr. Roule, who has an office under the French Ministry, wherein the writer cautions him against writing to him again by so precarious a conveyance as the post, and exhort him to be careful he is not discovered; one of the expressions in this letter is, For God's sake be careful to preserve my life.

The next witness was Henry Lutterloh, who swore that he had been acquainted with the prisoner from the year 1778, when he resided at Portsmouth, where he was employed by him to procure intelligence respecting the state, destination, &c. of the navy, for the purpose of transmitting it to the enemy; that he was at first paid at the rate of eight guineas per month, and

This witness further said, that he informed the prisoner, that he imagined, through the interest of a person in office, he supposed he should be able to learn the private signals of our fleet under Governor Johnston, for which intelligence he expected 3000l.

He went to France, and obtaining an interview with Sartine. proposed to enable them to capture Johnston's squadron on condition of being allowed 4000l. and 2000l for every 50, 3000l. for every 64, and 4000l. for every 74 and 90 gun ship that should be taken, and for every frigate in proportion.

After which several witnesses were examined, who fully proved the guilt of De la Motte.

The Jury after being out about five minutes, returned, finding the prisoner **GUILTY**.

This unfortunate man is about five feet ten inches in height, and



of a comely countenance ; his deportment is exceedingly genteel, and his eye is expressive of strong penetration.

It is said, M. De la Motte, in the last war, was Colonel of the regiment of Soubise, and behaved on several occasions, with singular gallantry. Upon the conclusion of the war his regiment was broke ; soon after the title, Baron Deckham, with an hereditary estate, devolved to him. Having lived beyond the limits of his fortune, he retired to England some few years since, where he has continued to reside till the commission of that act which he is doomed to expiate by the forfeit of his life.

**Monf. De la Motte** was a man

of parts, born in France, he descended from a great family, and had, for some years past been employed in public affairs. He confessed, that he had formerly indulged himself in lewdness and other pleasures, and that the expence attending those sinful ways had brought him to poverty, and poverty had brought him to those treasonable practices, for which his life paid the forfeit.

On Thursday, the Sheriffs attended with a proper guard, went to the Tower to demand the body of Mons. De la Motte, to bring him to Newgate, in order for his being conducted from thence to the place of execution, where he received his just, tho' awful, sentence.

F I N I S.